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the recent report of a blue carnation and the long horticultural search for a blue rose, it may be of interest to quote Dr. Keegan's conclusions: "1. A blue flower is unproducible in species which contain or are capable of forming phlobaphenic tannin [*i.e.*, chromogen, which on advanced oxidation evolves brown-red or muddy anhydrides more than sufficient to neutralize and overcome any tendency to blue coloration incident to the presence of gallic acid], no matter what the development of the inflorescence may amount to. 2. A blue flower is more likely to be produced in a species having a gamopetalous corolla or perianth, and therefore liable to evolve by higher oxidation a certain quantity of a high oxybenzoic acid. 3. In species wherein the tannin natural to the organism is iron-greening and non-phlobaphenic, a blue flower may possibly be producible in a polypetalous corolla, provided always that the petals or perianth be large relatively to the height of the plant and to the size and robustness of its stem and leaves; in this case it is uncertain whether gallic acid is necessary for the production of the effect, but any way an alkaline compound of an oxybenzoic acid would seem to be indispensable."

Botanical Notes.—Captain J. Donnell Smith, whose work on Central American botany is well and favorably known, publishes an enumeration of the plants collected in Central America by Dr. W. C. Shannon, as an appendix to Vol. I, Part II, of the report of surveys and explorations made from 1891 to 1893 by the Intercontinental Railway Commission. The "separates" of the article bear the imprint Washington, 1898.

Professor Peck's report of the state botanist, reprinted from the 51st annual report of the New York state museum, as is usual with his reports, contains descriptions and figures of a considerable number of fungi, several of which are believed to be new to science. It is unfortunate that, while the text is in octavo, the plates are of quarto size and separately bound.

At Bologna is preserved, in book form, the herbarium of Aldrovandi, dating from the middle of the sixteenth century. In *Malpighia*, Vol. XII, Fasc. 7-10, Professor Mattiolo, now of Florence, but until recently stationed at the University of Bologna, gives an annotated catalogue of the plants represented in the first volume of this herbarium, his list reaching 557 numbers.

Acalypha hispida, a New Guinea plant which, under the name of *A. sanderi*, is attracting a good deal of attention in horticultural

circles, is well figured in the *Botanical Magazine* for January. Sir Joseph Hooker calls attention to the fact that it was figured by Rumphius as early as 1690.

A portrait of *George Bentham*, accompanied by a biographical memoir by Sir Joseph Hooker, his collaborator on the great "Genera Plantarum," appears in the concluding number of Vol. XII of the *Annals of Botany*.

Professor Sargent contributes to the *Botanical Gazette* for February an article on new or little-known North American trees, in which the *Thrinax*-like palms of Florida are revised, — the new genus *Coccothrinax* being proposed, — and a new elm related to *Ulmus racemosa* is described under the name *U. serotina*.

Recent issues of the *Deutsche Botanische Monatsschrift* contain a series of articles, by W. N. Suksdorf, entitled "Washingtonische Pflanzen," and descriptive of a considerable number of species and varieties from our northwest coast, which are believed to be as yet undescribed or unnamed.

A notion of the extent to which scientific as well as military and commercial activity is penetrating Africa may be obtained from an examination of the issue of the *Botanische Jahrbücher* of January 31, the greater part of which is devoted to a continuation of the "Beiträge zur Flora von Afrika," by Dr. Engler and his associates.

Vanilla culture, as practiced in the Seychelles, is described by S. J. Galbraith in *Bulletin No. 21* of the United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Botany.

The acaulescent blue violets of the vicinity of Ottawa are described and figured by James M. Macoun in *The Ottawa Naturalist* for January.

Bulletin No. 48 of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, which is devoted to grapes, contains a half-tone reproduction of a photograph by Professor Munson, showing the seeds of North American grapes.

Plants yielding Myrrh and Bdellium are monographically treated in January numbers of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* by E. M. Holmes, of the Museum of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

Robert Smith contributes a short article "on the study of plant associations" to *Natural Science* for February, illustrating his remarks

by an analysis of the flora of the Ayrshire coast between Prestwick and Troon.

"Catalogue of herbarium specimens for exchange," a rather unusual title for a bulletin of an agricultural experiment station, is the title of *Bulletin No. 51* of the North Carolina station, issued under date of December 16 last.

Silphium lanceolatum is the name proposed by Mr. Canby in the February number of the *Botanical Gazette* for a new species of the South Atlantic region.

The comparative morphology of cactus embryos and seedlings is considered by Professor Ganong in the *Annals of Botany* for December.

Professor Rowlee describes and figures two Mexican willows — one new — in the *Botanical Gazette* for February.

Meconopsis heterophylla, of California, is figured in the January number of the *Botanical Magazine*.

Stachys arvensis, in Australia, is said to cause fatal cases of poisoning when eaten by bullocks and horses. — *Queensland Agr. Journ.*, January.

Lewisia tweedyi, of Washington, is figured in the *Botanical Magazine* for January